October 10, 1969

Dear Harold,

Many thanks for your good letter of the 9th. Don't worry about typing errors and the like for they are trivial and not worth the time they consume.

I too have no preferences to time except that I would like to visit you as soon as possible. I'd hate to wait till the Christmas vacation just because of school. I have a self-teaching course which does not demand that I attend classes every day. If it is all right with you I could come for a Friday through Monday stretch. The earliest I can make it is the 24 to 26 of this month. If that suits you I'll start making arrangements. I have a standard two-track tape recorder which plays fine but records lousy so I would really appriciate the use of yours; of course I'll supply the tape.

One of the reasons that I so greatly admire you is that in so many cases, you have been the first to notice or suggest something which under close scrutiny proves true -- even if for reasons other than you originally proposed. This is the case with the first shot before 202, the Connally hit at 226, and the double head shot. I'll reserve all the minutiae for when we talk.

Any help with obtaining photographs would be more than appreciated. I have been futilely trying to get copies of the Bond slides and the Hughes, Dorman, and Bell films. I think it has already been attempted to get the whole Martin film showing the knoll but no success. I also had nothing with Betzner. I know NBC isn't distributing Weigman although I have ninth-generation copies of two early frames. I've seen one Rickerby and Bothun both of which were heavily cropped. Life has not yet replyed on my request for all of Rickerby. Jim Towner is also considering whether or not to sell me copies of his stuff. I've seen all of Jim Murry's originals at Black Star but have only poor copies of his pix showing the skull and brain matter in grass. Jim grabbed his negatives from BS and ran - won't return them or answer my letters. Oh - Patsy Paschall's lawyer told me her stuff won't be released for five years. Other photos slip my mind at the time.

Harper found his fragment 25 ft. south of Elm St. curb and 18 ft. east of the inlet where the Murry fragment was. Harper marked a platmap for me which I'll show you when we meet. The suppressed pictures to which I refer are the Harper slides which according to Harper are with the FBI which according to the FBI are in the Commission's files which according to the files are nowhere. Make of all this what you will. I was interested in only 2 things: where was the fragment found and where are the slides? I already have one answer and may never get the other.

I base my estimate of the speed of the Zapruder camera not so much on the FBI report by on the proper speed at which to project it. My projector works from 16 to 48 fps. At 16, Z goes slightly too slow - at 18, all motion seems natural and smooth - at 24 it is way too fast. Even you admitted this in one WW where you complained about the thing going too fast at the Archives whose slowest projection speed is 24 fps for the 16mm copy. Shaneyfelt's tests on the camera confirm the 18 fps idea but are largely pseudo-scientific. I've done some really interesting work on this which I will show you later.

I got my copy of Zapruder from a source which I believe Dick wants me to keep confidential. This is kind of silly because I am sure we got our copies from the same source. Mine was $10 for two color copies on a single roll. They are extremely dark and some early frames were damaged and cut out on the ancestor copy. This info should tell you if we have ~~XXX~~ similar copies. In WW2 pp. 227- 228 of the Dell paperback there is a reference which sounds like the Archives made a copy for you. Is this true? Archives would not do it for me and their copy is far superior to the one I have. (I still want to see your copy.)

I never put much importance in the tramp pictures except that they show something which the WC avoided and would have liked to ignore.

I have a feeling that most of your materials would not directly concern my work so I would not be rumaging through your entire file. I am only interested in matters which bear directly on the shooting - mainly photos and medical evidence. Other things would be superfluous and unfortunately we won't have time for that.

I've said about all I can remember having to say so I'll sign off now. I really appreciate all the kindness you've shown me.

Still,

Howard

P.S. In your last letter you said you were including a copy of a letter to Gary Schoener. Apparently you forgot to include it with the letter you wrote me. I'd like to see it, however, since you did send Gary some of my materials. I know of Gary through Dick and don't mind that he got the stuff but I must ask that it all be kept quiet and distributed no further without my permission.